MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 JULY 1981

Iran

Bani-Sadr in France--Paris radio reported that an Iranian plane carrying former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr landed at Evreux airfield on the morning of 29 July. It said the French Foreign Ministry has granted the former president's request for political asylum on the express condition that he does not engage in any political activity on French soil. The radio later reported that Iran is seeking Bani-Sadr's extradition. Reporting on the former president's flight to France and the French Government's decision to grant him asylum, Tehran radio said Bani-Sadr has now joined the united front of the counterrevolution.

Tudeh Party Leader Interviewed--In an interview with AFP, Tudeh Party Secretary General Nureddin Kianuri said former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi should be "locked up together in a psychiatric hospital." He voiced the opinion that the Bani-Sadr-Rajavi alliance, aimed at forming a national resistance council to work against the Islamic fundamentalists, is doomed to failure. Kianuri affirmed that the Tudeh Party will support the Islamic Republic as long as it follows an anti-imperialist and antidespotic orientation and works for the benefit of the oppressed masses.

Sunni Clergyman Kidnapped--According to Tehran radio, Kurdish Democratic Party members kidnapped a Sunni clergymen near Baneh who had called on the people to participate in the recent elections.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported that as a result of two series of guerrilla operations in the region opposite Nowsud and Marivan, Iranian soldiers destroyed one bridge and succeeded in cutting the Iraqi forces' communications and supply route to Tawilah and Bitarah, an Iranian Armed Forces communique, carried by the radio, claimed that an Iraqi aircraft was downed west of Hamidiyeh. It also asserted that 13 Iraqi tanks were destroyed in the Abadan-Khuninshahr region and that 10 others were badly damaged on the Abadan-Mahshahr-Darkhovin-As-Sulaymaniyah axis.

An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, transmitted by INA, said 540 Iranian soldiers lost their lives in a Susangerd battle, which also resulted in the destruction of 19 Iranian tanks and the downing of 3 helicopters. It claimed that one Iranian helicopter was shot down in the Abadan region and another in the Marivan region, and it asserted that Iranian aircraft that raided the Al-Bakr and Al-'Amiq ports were intercepted by Iraqi ground resistance and forced to flee. According to INA, an Iraqi political commentator has described as a lie Iran's claim that all of its planes that raided the Dukan hydroelectric station on 19 July returned safely to base. The commentator asserted that one Iranian plane was shot down over Iranian territory opposite Qal'at Dizah and that another was downed in Iraq in As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Israel has positioned approximately 35 vehicles in the hills of the western sector of the border strip and has deployed artillery and rocket batteries outside Al-Qawzah township. It added that Israeli gunboats have continued their movements along the Lebanese coast from Ra's an-Naqurah to the approaches of Ad-Oamur. According to the radio, the joint forces have adopted measures to confront these new military developments. The Voice of Palestine claimed that Israeli planes overflew Beirut in violation of the cease-fire agreement.

Fatah Official Interviewed--In recorded remarks broadcast by the Voice of Palestine, Fatah Central Committee member Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil admitted that in the recent fighting the Palestinian side suffered approximately 2,500 casualties, the majority involving civilians, while Israeli losses were estimated at approximately 1,500. He predicted a second phase to the Israeli operations involving a large-scale attack from the land, sea and air.

Qaddumi Statement--The Voice of Palestine reported that in a statement to the FRG magazine STERN, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi said Palestinian fedayeen operations will continue in Israel despite the recent cease-fire, adding that the PLO will never accept Israel nor allow it to live in peace. According to the radio, Qaddumi also asserted that if a real war breaks out, the Palestinians will choose to ally themselves with the Soviet Union because they prefer to be the Soviets' friends rather than the victims of the Israelis and the imperialists.

'Arafat-Al-Asad Meeting--Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a 4-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss the results of the recent war in southern Lebanon and current developments in the region.

Damascus Radio Commentary--In a commentary on the recent cease-fire agreement, Damascus radio said Israel has never seriously accepted the cease-fire but has used it to pave the way for a war of liquidation more violent and barbaric than the latest one. The radio asserted that Syria will never allow the aggression against Lebanon to continue or the war of attrition against the resistance to be resumed. It claimed that if Israel resumes its violations of Lebanese airspace, Syria will resume its confrontations with Israeli aircraft and will down them.

Libya

JANA, citing a TASS report, claimed that CIA Director William Casey and the White House have approved a plot to overthrow and eliminate Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi involving a propaganda campaign and sabotage operations. According to JANA, the details of the CIA plot were published in NEWSWEEK magazine.

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BANI-SADR FLEES TO FRANCE, GRANTED ASYLUM

Landing in France

LD290614 Paris Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Summary] At 0430 [0230 GMT] an Iranian airliner carrying ex-President Bani-Sadr of Iran landed at the Evreux military airfield.

Mr Bani-Sadr has officially demanded political asylum in France. The Foreign Ministry is understood to have decided to grant political asylum to the ex-president on the condition that he engages in no political activity on French soil.

Tehran Reports Arrival

LD290748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Text] Quoting news agencies, the Central News Unit reports that a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry has announced that Abolhasan Bani-Sadr arrived in France at 0600 this morning and asked the French Government for political asylum.

The French Government has given him political asylum. Hence, Bani-Sadr has joined the united front of the counterrevolution, comprising Bakhtiar, Oveysi and other counter-revolutionaries.

Tehran: Rajavi Also on Plane

LD291054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Text] Coinciding with the anniversary of the death of the shah, Bani-Sadr, the deposed president, accompanied by Mas'ud Rajavi, his appointed prime minister and leader of the hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq], fled Iran with the help of the late shah's pilot, following the great victory of the risen nation in the 24 July elections and after their political death.

Extradition Demanded

LD291132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1057 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Text] The Central News Unit and PARS report that, following the escape of Iran's deposed President Bani-Sadr and his request to France to grant him political asylum, this morning Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced that Iran has handed an official extradition demand to the first secretary and second in command at the French Embassy in Tehran.

He also stated that documents are available at Iranian judiciary organizations [Ministry of Justice or revolution courts and offices of public prosecution]. These will be handed to the official in charge at the French Embassy, to be sent on to France so that the French authorities may be convinced that Bani-Sadr is subject to prosecution.

The foreign minister stressed that France must hand over Bani-Sadr in accordance with international norms, for his case is not limited merely to political matters.

In conclusion, regarding the flight of the aircraft carrying Bani-Sadr, he said that the aircraft had flown over Turkey, Greece and probably Cyprus.

AFP Report

NC290716 Paris AFP in English 0712 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Text] Tehran, 29 Jul (AFP)--Iran has asked France to extradite ex-President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, who is sought by Iranian justice, Foreign Ministry spokesman Reza Alavi said here after Mr Bani-Sadr arrived in Paris today.

The Iranian military plane on which Mr Bani-Sadr reached Paris was flown by the ex-shah's pilot, the spokesman added.

Iran had "many proofs" of Mr Bani-Sadr's guilt, and the French Government should now surrender him to the authorities of the Islamic Republic, the spokesman said.

The spokesman declined further comment on the circumstances of Mr Bani-Sadr's departure from Iran.

As Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Reza Alavi announced in Tehran that his country had asked France to extradite the ex-president, the French Foreign Ministry announced that Iran's charge d'affaires in Paris had been summoned to the Quai d'Orsay to be briefed on the situation caused by Mr Bani-Sadr's arrival and France's decisions.

The French Ministry added that the military aircraft which brought Mr Bani-Sadr to France "will be returned to the Iranian Government". Meanwhile the French Defence Ministry said the Iranian Armed Forces Boeing 707 which landed at exactly 0423 a.m. (0223 GMT) today was under the "necessary protection" at Evreux airfield.

The ex-president's flight to France followed an almost continuous battle between him and the Islamic Republic Party since his election on January 26, 1980.

Under fire from religious fundamentalists, losing support from Ayatollah Khomeyni with whom he shared exile in France before the ousting of the shah, the object of hostile demonstrations in the streets of Tehran, Mr Bani-Sadr vanished on June 18, living a clandestine life, although still president of the country, until June 22. He was then dismissed as "incompetent" by Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Bani-Sadr on Plans

LD091024 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Excerpt] The former Iranian president, Bani-Sadr, arrived this morning in Cachan in Val-de-Marne where his two daughters live; they have a flat there. Mr Bani-Sadr stated to journalists that he counts on staying in France--I am quoting him--until the day when the Iranian people open up the path of democracy and have a political life worthy of the name. According to Mr Bani-Sadr, the Iranian people are determined to continue on the path of revolution and to oppose the terrorist regime of Khomeyni--I am, of course, still quoting. The former head of state also pointed out that during recent weeks he did not leave Tehran once; he was even able to circulate in the streets of the city thanks apparently to the people's protection.

Crew To Return

NC290847 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Text] Paris, 29 Jul (AFP)--The four crewmembers of Iranian military plane which flew former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to France have said they were forced to make the trip, an informed source said here today.

The four, all military men, have asked to return to Iran as soon as possible, the source said.

Five people who accompanied Mr Bani-Sadr were being questioned by French authorities at the Evreux airbase, where the plane landed, the source added.

EXCLUSIVE AFP INTERVIEW WITH TUDEH'S KIANURI

NC281338 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Text] Tehran, 28 Jul (AFP)--Ousted President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and People's Mojahedin chief Mas'ud Rajavi should be "locked up together in a psychiatric hospital," according to Nureddin Kianuri, general secretary of Iran's Tudeh communist party.

The Bani-Sadr-Rajavi alliance--aimed at forming a national resistance council against the Islamic fundamentalists who control both the presidency and parliament--is "doomed to failure," Mr Kianuri said today in an exclusive interview.

"Bani-Sadr is a traitor, with a mental illness that is politically very dangerous," Mr Kianuri asserted. "He is incredibly egocentric and believes he is the greatest thinker of the century."

The communist leader claimed fidelity to the line of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. "Revolutionaries of the entire world do not care what the bourgeois world thinks" about the 250 executions of the fundamentalists' political opponents since June 20, Mr Kianuri said.

"The leaders of the counterrevolutionary groups are murderers and they deserve the death penalty," he said. But Iranian young people "disturbed by the Mojahedins' propaganda" should be allowed to "correct themselves."

"These youths have committed social crimes in supporting imperialism," he said, and "they should be re-educated in work camps."

The Iranian communists have strongly supported the religious regime despite measures putting them in the political opposition and banning their newspaper, MARDOM (the people).

"We supported Prime Minister (Mohammad) 'Ali Raja'i in the presidential election because he was the universal candidate of all Iranian anti-imperialist forces," Mr Kianuri said. "The orientations of revolutionary Islam coincide with the communist program."

Questioned about the unlikely agreement of a communist party with a religious group, Mr Kianuri said: "In the Shi'ite (Moslem) religion, it is very difficult to envisage despotism through personal power or fascism."

"We will support the Islamic Republic, as long as it follows its present orientation--anti-imperialist, anti-despotic, in favor of the oppressed masses," he said.

Mr Kianuri said he did not know how many people were members in the Tudeh, but, he said, it has "political influence that is growing every day."

The group should soon be given the right to hold meetings, he added.

Mr Kianuri acknoledged that one faction of the Islamic Republic Party wanted to ban the communists, but added that many other fundamentalists agreed that non-violent left-wing groups could participate actively in politics, "according to the line defined by Imam Khomeyni."

The communist leader showed similar optimism about Iran's foreign policies, saying he was happy to note "the progress of a tendency to normalize relations with socialist countries.

He said that tendency illustrated the "Neither East nor West" policies of the Islamic revolution, which led authorities to "limit outside trade with the West to develop it with socialist and Third-World countries."

But the Tudeh still is a semi-clandestine party, which was able to surface publicly only once when Mr Kianuri participated in a televised debate more than a month ago.

Even the AFP interview had to be conducted secretly, at an address that was divulged at the last minute. Mr Kianuri said this was because of death threats received from the People's Mojahedin.

BAKHTIAR INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH PAPER CITED

Part I

NC251410 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 24 Jul 81

[Text] LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT, which is published every 2 weeks for the French members of parliament, carried an interview with the leader of the National Resistance Movement of Iran [NRMI], Shapur Bakhtiar, in its recent issue. The publication's prologue to the interview says: All observers believe that Iran has turned into a powder keg and the war with Iraq made the world almost forget this until the explosion at the Islamic Republican Party [IRP] headquarters in which the main figures of the party were killed. Also, the wave of concern has once again risen and the flame of the superpowers' appetite is growing. Under such conditions, interviewing Mr Shapur Bakhtiar is of special importance.

Following this prologue, LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT correspondent asked Dr Bakhtiar: The rate of Iran's incidents has accelerated in the past few weeks. Among the most noteworthy of these incidents was the implementation of the coordinated program of criticizing the Islamic Republic's president that led to his dismissal as well as to fresh executions. Then came the IRP explosion in which the leading figures of the party were killed. What are your comments on these two incidents, and do you see a direct link between these two incidents?

Dr Shapur Bakhtiar replied: Our country is facing a constant situation of insecurity and instability and I can even say that we are now witnessing the effects and results of something that Mr Khomeyni calls "revolution" and which I have named his sedition or riot. As far as I know, during the past 2 centuries Iran had never witnessed a similar situation in its economic, international and, especially, (?defensive) fields. Some Western countries were determined to talk or come to terms with people they considered moderates or who have more Western tendencies among the regime's officials. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr had only one vote and that was Khomeyni's. I recalled this point a year ago, and I can repeat it again, especially since my remarks have been shown to be completely true. Bani-Sadr was self-deceived. He did not gain 11 million votes, but only 1 vote. Bani-Sadr is a retrogressive person and, as president or chairman of the Revolution Council, he participated in all the regime's injustices and brutalities. I believe that Bani-Sadr is on the same level as Khomeyni, while the West--with all its elements, headed by LE MONDE's special envoy Eric Rouleau--has tried to present Bani-Sadr as a logical person who respects human rights. No, Bani-Sadr is an unturbaned mullah.

Who were those who supported him recently or those to whom he had come closer, all of them wanting the ruling clergy to leave the scene? The dissatisfied people. Dissatisified from all ranks--Marxists, nationalists, the silent majority, the counterrevolutionaries, etc. But in whose name and for whom were they acting? If they had uttered any other name except Bani-Sadr's, they would have been crushed immediately. They said that they were supporters of Bani-Sadr in order to avoid being labeled counterrevolutionaries. They supported someone whom Khomeyni himself had chosen and who had apparently gained 11 million votes in the elections. When Bani-Sadr saw that the power was gradually slipping through his fingers, he decided to play the role of a nationalist freedom seeker.

He broke with the mullahs and, according to the logic of the incidents, that which should have happened to him did. This is the first stage which led to Bani-Sadr's dismissal. But as far as the existence of a link or cause and effect between Bani-Sadr's dismissal and the explosion at the IRP is concerned, this is something that has not yet been proven. I think that this explosion shows another face of the reaction by groups that wanted neither Bani-Sadr nor Khomeyni but who, until then, could express themselves through Bani-Sadr. Now that there is no Bani-Sadr any more they are compelled to resort to harsh methods.

Dr Bakhtiar added: At this point I wish to seize the opportunity that has been granted to me and to show the extent of the mullahs' demagogy after this incident. They announced that 72 were killed in the explosion and this is undoubtedly a forged figure. You, of course, know about the history of Imam Hoseyn's rebellion when his enemies beheaded him. There were said to be 72 martyrs of Imam Hoseyn's uprising, and in order to instigate the masses' religious feelings the mullahs said that "after 14 centuries, again 72 martyrs. History repeats itself."

Khomeyni is a deceitful person, and his rule is formed of liars, demagogues and idiots. Instead of using the capital of the people's wisdom and culture and human happiness, the officials of the regime are driving the people to the hall of mourning and to the valley of oppression, darkness and ignorance.

LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT's correspondent asked: To what extent will this explosion be used by the powers of the regime as a pretext to intensify suppression and, as a result, to neutralize the counterrevolutionary plot?"

Dr Shapur Bakhtiar said: In the eyes of any arbitrary rule, opposition is always counter-revolutionary. Personally and for the sake of Iran's interests and benefits, I prefer that Bani-Sadr's band be eliminated. The truth is that Western countries wished to come to terms and flirt with these elements, as they did in the beginning with Khomeyni, but the old man was unbearable. It would have been dangerous for Iran if such an agreement or plot had taken place.

With the existence of fundamentalists in power, the problem becomes simpler. They can do nothing and all roads are blocked to them, while Bani-Sadr had at least a number of intellectuals around him who could help him do things, even though limited. At any rate, he was the source of hope of some and Mrs Thatcher and Mr so-and-so in the West came to terms with him. What can be done? (?Business must go on).

Dr Bakhtiar added: I believe that the former president committed a crime much greater than Khomeyni in the killing of the nation and the destruction of Iran's culture. Bani-Sadr reminds me of Pierre Laval, the prime minister in the Vichy government. Among those who supported him--apart from the silent majority, the uninquiring majority--we find very rare and extremely dangerous Marxists who call themselves "Islamic." This is not easily digested. A Marxist is a person with certain ideologies and with whom one can hold a discussion, but it is not clear what a person should do with someone who makes Marxist deductions on the one hand and cites Koranic verses on the other. At any rate, the fundamentalists are in no way (?capable) of keeping the power for a long period.

At this point LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT's correspondent asked: Your criticism of Bani-Sadr is almost contrary to that of French public opinion. We considered Bani-Sadr to be a moderate person lost in an atmosphere of mania and melancholia.

Dr Bakhtiar replied: The French do not know Iran as well as I do. On the one hand there are secret collusions. I cannot say who and in what way. You should guess for yourself. Khomeyni has a good excuse. One can dismiss an 81-year-old man who has been a prisoner of his dogmatic ideas for a lifetime. But Bani-Sadr has at least written down some babblings about economy and Islam. As president a year ago he said: "Being an Iranian without being a Muslim is meaningless." This is the biggest (?blunder) in history.

We Iranians want, first, to be humans with unassailable rights, then Iranians and then Muslims or Christians. I do not accept the opinion that says Iran, the Iranian nationality, the Iranian culture and the Iranian identity--that have stood upright for centuries and centuries in front of the ebb and flow of history--are meaningless outside the framework of Islam, and I disagree with this opinion.

Dr Bakhtiar then said: You say that the West considers Bani-Sadr more moderate than others. All right, should one come to terms with him merely for this? Undoubtedly, your opinion is that although the choice is between the plague and cholera, one has to be chosen. But we want neither this nor that. I repeat that Bani-Sadr was more dangerous because he could speak a few words in French with a correspondent and make Eric Rouleau and people like Rouleau accept that his ideas were echoes of democracy.

At this point LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT's correspondent said: You definitely do not like the policy of LE MONDE.

Dr Bakhtiar said: Three or 4 years ago when we were fighting for freedom and independence LE MONDE was a reliable newspaper, but since Khomeyni came to power, it has lost a great number of its readers in Iran. During the shah's era LE MONDE did not agree with what was going on in our country. It was right. Nevertheless, the situation then cannot be compared with the situation now. You cannot place Bani-Sadr, who lived in Paris for 14 years, with, for instance, me, who spent 6 years in prison, on the same level. At that time he was strolling on the Champs Elysee or in the Latin quarter. At that time the BBC condemned the shah as the big criminal of the century. Today it has become the eulogizer of the imam; imam and again the imam...nothing more.

Dear compatriots, due to the length of the interview of the French magazine LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT with the NPMI leader, Dr Shapur Bakhtiar, the next portion of this interview will be broadcast in our program tomorrow.

Part II

NC252022 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 25 Jul 81

[Part II and final installment of Dr Shapur Bakhtiar's LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT interview]

[Text] The LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT correspondent asked: Can the Iranians tolerate any longer the purges that started when the Islamic Republican regime seized power and that have been going on at various levels in Iran? In other words, does the government, which can mobilize masses on the streets, truly enjoy the support of the Iranian people? Can the explosion that ended the lives of Ayatollah Beheshti and other personalities be completely to the benefit of the regime and make it stronger?

Dr Bakhtiar replied: What is the meaning of "martyr"? In general, the mullahs have never been given the mission of becoming martyrs. They prefer to send juveniles to the fronts or to execute youths between 12 and 17 years of age. The fundamentalists can go neither forward nor backward. They still can resort to many injustices and to carry out hundreds of summary executions, but this cannot be a solution. Iran's problem should be solved by domestic forces relying on national, anticlerical and anti-Tudeh feelings.

At this point the correspondent asked: Since the fundamentalists, as you say, have no way forward or backward and will perforce (?cling to power), can the secret civil war (which is in progress in Iran) turn into a [word indistinct] war? Does this seem an (?inevitable) fact to you?

The NRMI leader said in reply: I would like to know who would assist the mullahs in such a war. I do not believe in a civil war and am not hoping for one. I will resort to anything to prevent it. Nevertheless, I know that our country will (?turn) into a bloodbath. Just before the explosion at the Islamic Republican Party headquarters, I told this to LE MATIN.

For the time being the Tudeh Party is cooperating with the clergy. This is dangerous for the West, too. The longer the clergy stays, the deeper the infiltration of the Tudeh Party and the (?stronger) Khomeyni will (?clutch to Iran). The Tudehis know what they are doing. They are organized. They have much experience. The Americans said that where the cry of "God is great" is heard, there will be no sign of communists. But now in Iran there is both "God is great" and communism--we have both of them.

The LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT correspondent then asked: Another source of concern for Iranians is the war with Iraq. Do you think the Islamic Republic has the strength to fight effectively (?on the domestic and foreign fronts)?

Dr Shapur Bakhtiar replied: I have many times expressed my views in detail on the Iran-Iraq war. If you are asking me to tell you in all conscience whom I hold responsible for this war, I reply--Khomeyni. Khomeyni had not yet set foot in Tehran when through (?Shi'ite) mediators he sent millions of dollars in (?cash) to Iraq to spread the seed of rebellion in that country and to throw the Shi'ites and Sunnis at each others' throats. For months Khomeyni spoke about exporting his revolution to Iraq. This, (?above all, is contrary to international values). But Khomeyni is unable to understand such things. Parallel with these babblings on the international scene in which Bani-Sadr and the vagabond Qotbzadeh effectively participated, Khomeyni committed a more dangerous act. He started attacking the armed forces and threw it in disorder. One who intends to be aggressive should at least have enough sense to keep his army strong. If the army had not been turned into what it is today, Iraq would not have dared to attack . Anyway, Iraq on its part committed a big mistake, and this was that it did not separate the account of Khomeyni with that of Iran. The large majority of those who are fighting Iraq have done so for Iran's sake, not for Khomeyni's. Fighting against another nation and, at the same time, weakening a (?strong) army--what a policy!

Dr Bakhtiar then said: You asked me whether Khomeyni's government can fight on two fronts, and I say Iran does not have a government. For many consecutive months Iran had no prime minister and president and there was no sign of a Cabinet. A president was chosen, but he had a sad end. A revolution together with a change should have taken place. My efforts were to fulfill this revolution. But today that which you see is (?chaos and anarchy). [passage indistinct] It is a source of happiness for the Soviet Union, which sees that its neighbor has been (?weakened) to this extent. When there is (?chaos in a country), then the grounds are paved for attacking it. Despite all this, I believe that we will remain Iranians, that we will preserve our independence and that the clergy will be overthrown. If the Iranians want to, they will stay Muslims. But they will (?pay great indemnities for this experience) even though this might [words indistinct].

The LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT correspondent said: The armed forces did not use the (?chaos that emerged) after the IRP explosion. What, in your opinion, is the reason?

Dr Bakhtiar replied: Recently in a number of statements I asked the armed forces to stay neutral and to let these seditioners tear each other apart. They should do other things and play another role. By not participating in the war between the turbaned and the unturbaned mullahs, the armed forces showed showed intelligence.

The correspondent then asked: In your opinion, will the difficulties that Iran is facing [words indistinct] economic reconstruction in future years? Will Iran be able to turn back into the influential country in the region it was in the near past?

Dr Shapur Bakhtiar replied: (?That which the West saw was nothing but a show). Iran suffered from vital difficulties--very acute economic difficulties like [words indistinct] and (?financial corruption)--and they wanted to inject a large dose of dollars into (?an organ that could not absorb this).

What did we do with this money? This helped to considerably increase corruption. We purchased $8 to $10 billion in arms annually. I canceled almost all the agreements on the purchase of arms. These were the knots that should have been untied. Instead of untieing the knots causing difficulties, the regime speaks to us of the Islamic veil for women and so on. How can the West tolerate (?women to be veiled in a country that was the cradle of civilization and culture)?

The correspondent asked: Do you believe that your message will be reflected in the world and that you will enjoy the support of international organizations?

Dr Bakhtiar said: It is a complicated matter. Since international organizations are free to seek solutions and adopt decisions (?one can expect any type of assistance), but as far as mass media [words indistinct], it is a very difficult matter. We will use everything possible to (?explain) Iran's incidents, but when we want to defend our interests we somtimes have to speak in a low voice. After the assassination attempt against me in Paris it was proven that the French Foreign Ministry does not want us to ask for explanations from Khomeyni's regime. Undoubtedly, this is because the then-French foreign minister supported Mr Khomeyni. The interests of some countries are contrary to our national interests. This is not important. We will choose another path.

At this point the correspondent asked Mr Bakhtiar: Are you condemning the Western countries for indifference?

Dr Bakhtiar answered: No, I am not condemning them for indifference. I am condemning them for complicity and collaboration with Khomeyni's regime.

The LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT correspondent asked: Mr Bakhtiar, how do you (?assess the latest incidents in Iran)? Do you consider yourself one of Iran's (?hopes) or (?Iran's only hope)?

Dr Bakhtiar replied: Elements and circumstances [words indistinct] (?prevent) me from clearly (?explaining) what the continuation of the incidents in Iran will be. But I can tell you that I had foreseen the calamities before Khomeyni's arrival and before my incumbency as prime minister. I knew what would happen. Others knew too. But they suffered personality weaknesses. I saw what calamity the mullahs would inflict on Iran, and as prime minister I did not change my opinion. In France, too, I have not changed my opinion. All those who have cooperated with Khomeyni have not done so out of ignorance. They have cooperated because they could not say "no," whereas especially in a political life, one should know how to say "no." For 25 years I said "no" to the previous regime. I said "no" to Khomeyni. [Words indistinct] and I will display my ideas on social democracy (?Iranian style). I think that the future belongs to those who [passage indistinct]. For instance, the Iranians will never accept the Tudeh Party and they will not tolerate clerical rule (?for a long time). Our path is not a path [words indistinct], it is the path of moderation and progress by relying on national freedom. Iranian-style social democracy can be achieved only in stages by ensuring the country's and the people's security and by discussing with the people and by (?using) their freedom. [Words indistinct] is a mission that should be fulfilled.

The LE COURRIER DU PARLEMENT correspondent then asked: But don't you think that the religious fundamentalists (?have been able to deeply affect the minds)?

Dr Shapur Bakhtiar replied: It is true that a number of youths have been affected by the sickness of fanaticism. The danger exists. Nevertheless, I believe that if Khomeyni, like Hitler in Germany, had done a positive job, he could have made their fanaticism keener. At any rate, Iran before Khomeyni had almost no unemployment. Today, we have 5 million unemployed people. All dictators, at the start of their rule, carry out a noteworthy and positive act. But from the very first day, Khomeyni started destruction. No, undoubtedly the fundamentalists (?will not be perpetual). With their downfall Iran should be reorganized.

MORE RESULTS IN MAJLIS BYELECTIONS REPORTED

Tehran Counts

LD281803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Text] In a telephone conversation with the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Governor of Tehran Mr Tehrani announced the latest results of the byelections in Tehran for the Islamic Consultative Assembly, as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. By 1900 on 28 July 1981, the votes cast at 515 polling stations out of total number of 1,964 polling stations in Tehran's byelections for the Islamic Consultative Assembly were counted for the final time, and the number of votes gained by each candidate are as follows:

Total number of votes counted: 48,656.

1. Mr 'Abbas Sheybani: 362,415;
2. Mr Seyyed Mahmud Do'a'i: 319,171;
3. Mrs Maryam Behruzi: 317,890;
4. Mr Sa'id Amani-Hamadani: 309,546;
5. Mr Ahmad Mowla'i: 18,467;
6. Mr Nasrollah Shahababadi: 17,252;
7. Mr Seyyed 'Ali Mohajerani: 15,573;
8. Mr 'Ali Sohrabi: 12,382;
9. Mrs Zahra Purhaqqguy: 11,507;
10. Mr Akbar (Amirzadeh)-Gily: 8,108;
11. Mr Nariman Aminian: 6,422;
12. Mr Seyyed Abolqasem Hazavi: 5,178;
13. Mr 'Ali Reza Makhmalian-Kashani: 4,044;
14. Mr Davod Zolqadri: 3,755;
15. Mr 'Asghar Jamali-Faro: 3,653;
16. Mr 'Aqil Zeynal: 3,535;
17. Mr Hemmatollah Md'meni-(Shahmirzadi): 3,520;
18. Mr Seyyed Mohsen Seyyed-'Alizadeah: 788.

Results in Provinces

GF261857 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Jul 81

[Summary] In a dispatch, PARS has reported that out of a total of 983,837 votes in Fars Province, 876,592 were cast for Raja'i.

According to the Firuzabad governor, 52,462 votes cast in the presidential election were for Mr Raja'i out of a total of 54,030. In the same city, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rezvani was elected Majlis deputy with a total of 48,076 votes out of 49,575 votes cast.

In the Province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad Mr Raja'i led with 96,366 votes out of total of 104,375. He also received 56,443 votes in the city of Jahrom.

Mr Raja'i received 44,470 votes in the Dashtestan area out of a total of 48,629, and 26,800 votes in city of Gachsaran out of a total of 30,344.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel-Harandi received a total of 42,409 votes out of 45,001 cast in Eqlil and 21,042 out of 21,643 cast in Bavanat in his bid for position of Majlis deputy.

Mr Raja'i received a total of 21,651 votes for president out of 22,634 cast in Bavanat.

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR QUESTIONED ON FISCAL MATTERS

LD281446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Mr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, governor of the Central Bank of Iran, held a press conference today during which he answered questions by a PARS correspondent on national banking and monetary issues.

First, regarding the backing for Iran's currency, he said that according to the banking and monetary laws of the country, 25 percent of the total volume of notes printed should be backed by gold and foreign currency reserves. This is the case at the moment.

He added that Iran's gold reserves have been valued at $40 an ounce, while gold is currently worth more than $400 an ounce on the international market.

Regarding the fluctuations in the price of gold on the domestic market, the governor of the Central Bank said: This fluctuation is completely artificial and is caused by speculators. If the Central Bank of Iran were to feel that the manipulation of the price of gold could damage the country's monetary strength, it would import gold from the international market to the domestic market. This would bring the Central Bank a high profit.

Asked whether the Central Bank will be able to grant loans to the government in order to finance part of its deficit for this year, he replied that the bank had allocated sums for credit to the government. This covers article 23 of the budget and concerns industrial, agricultural and housing credits. It will reach a maximum of 50 million tomans.

Regarding the transfer of $1 billion of Iran's money to the Central Bank of the Netherlands, he was asked how much of Iran's assets have been returned by the United States so far. In reply, he said: The sum of $8 billion was credited to our account at first, $3.6 billion of which was allocated to repayment of Iran's debts. Another $1.4 billion was placed in an escrow account for settlements. The sum of $2.5 billion will be credited to Iran's account, $1 billion of which will be placed in an escrow account in the Netherlands, for settlements. The rest belongs to Iran.

Also, out of $1.4 billion in the central bank of London [as heard], certain sums will possibly be paid to Iran.

Regarding the country's foreign currency reserves, the governor of the Central Bank said: Thanks to the arrangements that have been made and also the savings that will be made in expenditures, these reserves are stable. We will attempt to maintain them at the present level.

Regarding the shares held by foreign investors in Iranian banks, he said: According to the bill approved by the revolution council, the price of the said shares would be paid after evaluation. It should be noted, however, that most of the shares are worth nothing.

Regarding the elimination of interest, considering the time limit given to the government, he said: I should first clarify for savers that the rumors spread by the counterrevolution--in order to achieve their goal, which is to create an atmosphere of distrust--regarding the lack of security for savings, are absolutely untrue. As the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, I assure the holders of saving accounts that the Central Bank and the government are the guarantors of the people's savings, and that nothing at all will happen to the people's savings.

It should also be noted that if interest were eliminated, a system would be created which would guarantee the interest of those who place deposits. This system should be Islamic.

Finally, referring to ways of controlling inflation, concerning the method of collecting taxes in the country, he said: Unfortunately, so far we have not fully utilized the country's tax resources.

MEAT RATIONING GOES INTO EFFECT IN TEHRAN

LD281900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, the economic mobilization headquarters today issued instructions on the distribution of meat in Tehran. The instructions say: In view of the limits of the meat organization and the protein requirements of each person, a daily ration of 50 grams of beef or lamb is to be allocated to each person in Tehran until full control over the slaughter of domestic animals is achieved and production is increased. The ration will be distributed weekly on the basis of the number of people in each household.

Each family will receive its meat ration four times per month. In the first week and first time, the family will receive frozen lamb; the second time they will also receive frozen lamb; the third time they will receive fresh lamb; and the fourth time the family will receive beef.

SUNNI CLERGYMAN KIDNAPPED NEAR BANEH 27 JUL

LD281756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit dispatch, the governor of Baneh has announced: Armed elements from the defunct Democratic Party, who were dealt a fatal blow thanks to the active participation by the Muslim Kurdish people and the deprived rural population in the elections, yesterday went to Kani Nab village in the Seyyedlu region in the vicinity of Baneh and kidnapped Mullah Mostafa Moradi, a Sunni clergyman, for the crime of calling on the people to take part in the elections.

This dispatch says: This inhuman deed by the elements of the Democratic Party has given rise to sharp protest by the population of the village of Kani Nab.

5 EXECUTED FOR 'CORRUPTION ON EARTH' IN HAMEDAN

LD290838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Text] The Hamedan Islamic Revolution Court found five professional smugglers, who had long records, guilty of corruption on earth and sentenced them to death. The sentence was carried out at dawn today.

According to the Central News Unit, the names of those executed are as follows: Mehdi Paknia; Taqi Paknia; Golam 'Ali Najafi; Sardar Torabdanesh; and Mohammad 'Ali Eftekhari.

MASHHAD DEPUTY KILLED BY 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD291142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 81

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at 1230 today Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Kamyab, elected as Islamic Consultative Assembly deputy from Mashhad, was attacked by counter-revolutionaries and was martyred.

City correspondents of the Central News Unit, Mashhad center, report he was shot in the head by a motorcyclist. He was immediately transferred to Mashhad's casualty clinic. Because of the severity of the wound, treatment failed and Hojjat ol-Eslam Kamyab, the elected representative of the citizens of Mashhad to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, was martyred and joined his pure ancestors.

It should be added that he was elected as representative of the people of Mashhad in the Islamic Consultative Assembly by an absolute majority in the recent byelection.

MINIGROUPS' DOCUMENTS DISCOVERED IN SHIRAZ

GF281545 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that a cardboard box containing pamphlets and publications of the poisonous and hypocritical minigroups, as well as a number of documents and names connected with them, was discovered on the street behind Shiraz No 4 garrison at about 1430 yesterday. The discovery was made by a person who gave them to the Shiraz Revolution Guards Corps.

RADIO IRAN CONDEMNS EXECUTION OF SA'ADATI

NC281543 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Text] Mohammad Reza Sa'adati, who was serving a 10-year prison sentence on charges of spying for the Soviet Union, was executed on charges of participating in the assassination of the Evin Prison warden, Kachu'i. Officials claim that Sa'adati had contacts with Kazem Afje'i, the revolution guard who killed Kachu'i, that he had influenced the guard and encouraged him to assassinate Kachu'i.

In addition to Mohammad Reza Kachu'i, 15 other innocent prisoners were executed on orders issued by the unclean hand of the shar' magistrate, but despite the continued killings, done in the hope of instilling fear among opponents, not even the slightest sign of fear can be seen in the combatants. On the contrary, in view of the increasing crimes by the regime, the combatants' determination is becoming stronger and stronger each day.

Reports from informed sources state that Mohammad Reza Sa'adati's friends have started to prepare an extensive plan to avenge the blood of their comrade in arms and that this plan will be carried out in the very near future.

RAFSANJANI: CRASHED PLANE FROM ICELAND, NOT ISRAEL

LD281208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session this morning.

According to this report, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, delivered a speech in which he said: The world--and we ourselves--see on the eve of Jersualem Day, which is the pride of the imam of the nation and which has attracted the attention of the deprived Arab nations and Muslims, that in the midst of difficulties, while we have been thinking of Palestine, the crafty enemy has created a big propaganda issue out of nothing. Today, the horns of imperialism and Zionism have filled the world with their noise, over nothing and in a vacuum.

An Argentine plane comes from Iceland [as heard], and during its return journey--in a move that is still a mystery to us, and the details of which are still unknown--is involved in an accident and crashes, and this situation arises. All of a sudden a great deal of noise is raised, that this plane had been bringing arms for Iran from Israel. The plane is known, the manifest is clear; the origin and the destination are known; everything is clear. That is, anybody who refers to these issues could learn what the plane's cargo and manifest had been, because all the details are clear. Then somebody distributes documents; another blows into the trumpet that Iran has bought arms from Israel. Of course, no one would believe this. This is unbelievable propaganda; the world knows that during those days when the Iranian nation was in the claws of the shah and was fighting, "Freedom to Palestine" was its second slogan, after "Freedom to Iran." If in those days the shah's government were to import Israeli goods, the people and those who followed the imam's movement would have voluntarily boycotted them.

That is clear. After the victory we were the first to open a Palestinian embassy; they have offices everywhere, we have an embassy; we gave the Israeli Embassy to Palestine.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 584 REPORTS ON SITUATION

LD281748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 81

[Communique 584 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. You are hereby informed about some of the operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on various battlefields during the past 24 hours:

At 2300 yesterday, an enemy combat group, supported by Katyusha fire, tried to attack our forces in the Tarrah region but thanks to the vigilance and readiness of the self-sacrificing servicemen of Islam, the enemy attack was repulsed and 27 Iraqi troops were killed. The rest vanished from the scene.

At 1804 yesterday, an aggressive Iraqi aircraft was hit and destroyed by a fast-flying fighter of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, west of Hamidiyeh.

In the Abadan-Khuninshahr region, thanks to fire opened by the heroes of Islam on the positions of the aggressive Iraqi Army, 10 enemy tanks, 5 vehicles, 3 heavy machineguns, 2 mortars, 15 trenches and several armored personnel carriers were totally destroyed. Also in the same area, our forces damaged 3 enemy tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers and a bulldozer, destroyed 10 ammunition dumps, many foxholes and squad trenches, and either killed or wounded a number of Iraqi servicemen.

On the Abadan-Mahshahr-Darkhovin-As-Sulaymaniyah axis, an intense exchange of fire continued between the mighty units of Islam and the aggressors and, thanks to artillery fire opened by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 10 enemy tanks, 3 trucks and 1 bulldozer were badly damaged.

As a result of joint operations by the Airborne Division and the artillery of the ground forces on the Ahvaz-Mahshahr axis, one enemy ammunition-carrying vehicle, one Katyusha-carrying vehicle and several trenches together with their servicemen were utterly destroyed.

In the Dezful region, the self-sacrificing combatants of the Islamic homeland of Iran set on fire one enemy tank, one heavy machinegun and an ammunition dump and, thanks to their artillery fire, killed 26 Iraqi servicemen. They also damaged one tank and one vehicle.

On most of the western fronts, an exchange of fire took place. Our combatant forces opened fire on the Iraqi Ash-Shohada' post and set on fire an enemy ammunition dump. The explosions from the dump could be heard long after.

An exchange of heavy-weapon fire continued in the Paveh region and, thanks to artillery fire opened by the Army of the Islamic Republic of Irna, damage was inflicted on the Iraqi Susgan post. An enemy tank and several trenches were destroyed on this front.

The brave personnel of the antiaircraft defnese units repulsed attacks by several enemy aircraft against our country's war zones and forced them to flee.

On 26 July, 11 brave combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred on the battlefields. May their sould be happy!

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran